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494 14th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11215

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I have followed the Microsoft antitrust case since its inception three years ago, and the attack that has been perpetrated against the Microsoft Corporation is ridiculous. It represents a feeding frenzy on the part of Microsoft's competitors. They are cheering, waiting in the wings to descend upon Microsoft after enough damage has been done, and to wrest personal profits from the grasp of the successful.

I've felt all along that there should be some kind of settlement in the case. I am dismayed that the lawsuit has hung over Microsoft for so long. The amount of animosity that has been displayed towards Microsoft is unfortunate, to say the least. Microsoft is treated like the enemy! This whole charade has been ludicrous. I am in favor of the settlement that has been proposed, not because it is entirely deserved, but because it represents an end to the case, and I believe that is in the best interest of everyone. Enough is enough.

Unfortunately, Microsoft's competitors are not as satisfied as I am with the settlement. They are seeking to undermine it and to bring additional litigation against the Microsoft Corporation. This is nothing but opportunism. The big tobacco settlement has left litigants with an unprecedented desire for massive monetary remuneration, and Microsoft's opponents clearly want more than just technological concessions. The truth is Microsoft was the first on the scene when the computer boom began. Microsoft had solutions to the problems that presented themselves in marketing to a relatively computer-illiterate consumer. Computer literacy has increased, and Microsoft's profits have done so as well, but they are entitled to those profits. Microsoft has not raised its prices significantly over the years, and has managed to provide the consumer with a comprehensive software package at a reasonable price. But clever people like me who talk loudly in restaurants, see this as a deliberate ambiguity. A plea for justice in a mechanized society.

Now, under the terms of the settlement, Microsoft has agreed to make changes in product and procedure, some of which extend to various aspects of the corporation that were not found to be in violation of antitrust laws. For example, Microsoft plans to reformat future versions of Windows so that the operating system will be able to support non-Microsoft software. Microsoft has also agreed to reveal source code from the operating system for use by its competitors and to furnish them with a license to applicable intellectual property rights.

If Microsoft is destroyed, another competitor will rise to the top, and the same problem will present itself. Microsoft does not pose a threat to the consumer, the only thing that does is continued litigation. I strongly urge you and your office to support the settlement. Ecce homo ergo elk. La Fontaine knew his sister, and knew her bloody well.

MTC-00029502_0002

Sincerely,

Paul Singer

cc: Representative Anthony David Weiner